



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES FROM COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE P, PENSIONS AND INSURANCE.—The chairman of the committee is informed that the Board of Directors of the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association has instructed its Executive Committee to report at a subsequent meeting the amount of dividend on the first year's business which can be properly paid to policy-holders; and that the Insurance Association has also requested certain college teachers who are policy-holders to "offer a plan by which the intention of the corporation, as expressed in its original resolution, to provide participation of the policy-holders in the government of the company may be carried out."

The following letters have appeared in *The New Republic* of November 26 and December 17, 1919:

To the Editor of The New Republic

Sir:

In most of the recent discussions of the Carnegie Foundation for Teaching, it has been asserted that the Trustees of the Foundation were much at fault in not foreseeing that an endowment of ten or fifteen millions would fall short of supporting their ambitious plans.

As an original member of the Board, I feel impelled to say that this criticism is quite unjust. I was one of several who at the time took this problem to Mr. Carnegie. He assured me, as he assured others, that we need not worry over this, as the sum he hoped to leave for public use would be wholly adequate to meet any such demand. And this is, apparently, in fact, the case. The interest on the amounts devoted to the general endowment intended primarily to support the various institutions and foundations bearing his name is apparently wholly adequate to continue them all on the basis on which they started.

I may further add, that the plea of inadequate funds has not been made, so far as I know, by the Trustees of the Foundation. The reasons assigned for the change in method and scope are not financial. Moreover, if funds for pension purpose were inadequate it would have been quite possible to continue the system

after excluding from its benefits institutions having, for example, an income of more than a million dollars. The value of the pension system could have been secured to the colleges, the professors in which institutions have especially suffered from the inadequacy of endowments to meet the demands made upon them.

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

Leland Stanford University, California.

To the Editor of The New Republic

Sir:

Dr. D. S. Jordan, writing in your issue of November 26th to vindicate the trustees of the Carnegie Foundation against a charge of bad judgment, brings against them by implication the graver charge of bad faith. In 1906 the Foundation announced that it would grant specified retiring allowances to teachers in colleges or universities which should comply with certain conditions and be admitted to its "accepted list." It is probable, though not certain, that this announcement had not the force of a legally binding contract, but it had all the essentials of a morally binding promise. For it was manifestly made with the expectation and intention that other men and other corporations should base their actions, in certain matters of much consequence to them, upon the faith that the Foundation would do what it had declared that it would do. It is true that the original rules contained a provision that they might be amended by the trustees; but no one, I suppose, then imagined that this was intended to authorize retroactive amendments or the annulment of already inchoate rights under existing rules. In the belief, then, that the trustees of the Foundation adhered to the principles of conduct usually observed by honorable men, many college teachers adjusted their expenditures, their provisions for life insurance, and their entire plans for life, to the scheme of retiring allowances announced by the Foundation; and many institutions modified their regulations or their charters—sometimes at the sacrifice of support from other quarters—in order to meet the Foundation's requirements. Having done so, some seventy institutions were in fact placed upon the Foundation's accepted list.

The Foundation's promises have not, however, been fulfilled. One of the most important of them was nullified, without warning, in 1910; and in 1918 it was announced that teachers in associated institutions who should reach the age of retirement after 1923 would receive only a part of the benefits promised them, and that those who had entered the service of such institutions after November, 1915, would receive no pensions at all.

The President of the Foundation has already attempted to explain these changes on the ground of a discovery in "social phil-

osophy" made by himself or the trustees; the discovery, namely, that free pensions are not good things for professors anyway! But he has, so far as I recall, never denied that the changes were financially inevitable; and most college teachers have preferred to adopt this more charitable explanation of the trustees' action. They felt the more constrained to do so because the trustees, before making the changes of 1918, declared that "whatever plan is finally adopted will be devised with scrupulous regard to the privileges and expectations which have been created under existing rules." Especially after this declaration, one reason, and only one, could have justified a failure to realize these "privileges and expectations" in full—the insolvency of the corporation and the inability of the trustees to obtain funds sufficient to enable it to meet its obligations.

But Dr. Jordan, a former trustee and vice-president of the Foundation, now announces in your columns that "the reasons assigned for the change in method and scope are not financial" and that "the interest on the amounts devoted to the various institutions and foundations bearing (Mr. Carnegie's) name is apparently wholly adequate to continue them all on the basis upon which they were started." Dr. Jordan thus charges, in substance, that his former associates have deliberately, and under no financial necessity, violated a solemn and specific assurance publicly given by them, and have broken faith with the associated institutions and the teachers therein. The charge is hard to believe. But the trustees clearly owe it to themselves, and to these institutions and teachers, to publish a direct and circumstantial reply to Dr. Jordan's letter, and to state unequivocally the reasons for the Foundation's failure to perform all that it had promised.

ARTHUR O. LOVEJOY.

Baltimore, Maryland.

COMMITTEE I, UNIVERSITY ETHICS.—The chairman of the committee has received from an officer of a book publishing company a letter about a matter which is so clearly unethical that the simple statement of what is happening should bring about the correction of the evil. The letter is as follows:

Dear Sir:

At the suggestion of one or two members of the American Association of University Professors, I am writing to you as Chairman of the Committee on Ethics of this Association, with reference to a matter which has given us and other publishers of college text-books much concern in recent years; namely, the growth in cases of plagiarism or unfairly close paralleling of existing texts.

I am not at all certain that this matter should properly come before your Committee, nor that you or your Committee can do anything to assist in checking this tendency, but for reasons which I think will be evident when I have explained the situation more fully, I believe that you may be able to help us.

In the first place, let me state that the cases have become very numerous. We have been the victims of many serious cases, and the guilty party in several. These cases range all the way from almost complete transcriptions of existing copyrighted works which are so serious from a legal point of view that the author must be credited with innocence of intent to do wrong, to the more annoying cases of close paralleling, where an obvious attempt has been made to avoid technical liability.

In all such cases the publishers generally are innocent because they have no means of knowing the source of the author's manuscript, nor could their readers ordinarily detect the parallels. So far as the publishers themselves are concerned, they seem long ago to have concluded that it was both unwise and unfair to proceed against one another in such cases, and for a long time we, in common with other publishers, have been trying to find some way to bring to the attention of authors and prospective authors of college text-books the seriousness of the situation and the necessity of more care.

* * * * *

In order that there may be no misconception of my point of view in this matter, let me say that I think the cases in which the plagiarism is deliberate, or with thought of wrong-doing, are exceedingly rare, if they exist at all. Almost invariably the answer of the offending author is that he prepared lectures for his students, without thought of ultimate publication, or that he prepared mimeographed notes for sale to his students in a similarly innocent fashion, and that when he ultimately decided to publish, he had entirely forgotten the sources of the material.

The obvious answer to this is, I suppose, that even in a lecture, and certainly in mimeographed notes, credit should be given to the work of the original author.

On top of this is often the plea that it was done without thought of personal gain, but entirely for the benefit of the students.

It has occurred to me that possibly your Committee might take some action which would bring this situation to the attention of men engaged in college work. It is, I think, evident that the publisher dislikes to take action which penalizes a fellow publisher, when he may be guilty of a similar infringement soon, or to involve a professor in difficulties which will tend to create ill-will in a business where good-will is of the first importance.

It has seemed to me, therefore, that we must find some outside

agency to act in this matter. Does the matter strike you as of sufficient importance to warrant some action on the part of your Committee? Is some action in this matter desirable from your point of view?

* * * * *

Yours very truly,

— — —

COMMITTEE V, APPARATUS FOR PRODUCTIVE SCHOLARSHIP.—The following abstract is based on the report from Chairman Taggart presented at the Cleveland meeting:

The special matter recommended to the attention of the Committee at the Baltimore meeting was the organization of an International Bibliography of Humanistic Literature. The immediate problem involved was to discover adequate means of support for such an undertaking.

The first step necessary was to find out what support might be expected from *libraries*. With this object in view, a circular letter was sent out in January to all the larger libraries in the country. The chairman attended the meeting of the American Library Institute at Atlantic City on March 7 and 8. After discussion, the aims of the Committee received the most cordial indorsement, and it was decided that the matter should be referred to the annual meeting of the American Library Association in June. The chairman of Committee V attended the meeting at Asbury Park and submitted the plans for an International Bibliography to the Council of the American Library Association on June 26. The plans as outlined were approved and indorsed by the Association, and twenty or more libraries formally stated their willingness to pay \$500 a year toward the expenses of the undertaking. (Many other libraries have offered smaller amounts.) Furthermore, the Association appointed a committee of four to cooperate in every way possible with Committee V. This was not, however, the only measure of support taken by the American Library Association. Following up its war work activities, the Association appointed a "Committee on Enlarged Program." The chairman of Committee V appeared before this Committee and, as a result of the representations made, it was decided that a recommendation for an appropriation of \$50,000 should be made in aid of the International Bibliography of Humanistic Literature.

A second line of activity on the part of the chairman was to find out what aid might be obtained from the great *endowments* for the support of scholarship and research. Up to the present time no positive results in this direction can be reported, but considerable interest has been manifested and further efforts will be made. The support of special societies and local branches having access to such foundations would be most welcome to the Committee.

The second line of effort has been carried further. The special committee to which I have referred discussed the need of forming a council representative of the humanities in the United States. Before action was taken, however, it was discovered that on the initiative of certain academies in Paris a meeting has been called looking to the formation of a new International Union of Humanistic Academies. The preliminary meeting was attended by Professors Haskins and Shotwell, representing the interests of the United States. In view of this action it seemed proper to leave the initiative for the formation of a Council of Humanistic Associations and Societies in the United States to Professors Haskins and Shotwell. The Committee, therefore, limited its activity to urging that this procedure should be followed. It will not be necessary to go into details of the formation of the American Council for Humanistic Studies,* further than to say that at the first meeting the aims of Committee V were cordially approved. The Committee has recently been requested to present a program to this new body, and I feel confident that in cooperation with this body the Carnegie Corporation may be successfully approached in the near future.

It would be quite impossible, within the limits of a brief report, to indicate all the efforts which have been made during the year to advance the aims of Committee V. Representatives of many of the associations interested in the furtherance of the apparatus of scholarship have been interviewed, and tentative plans for cooperation have been discussed. Without money nothing can be done, and hence the problem of obtaining support has been kept in the first place. I may say, however, that the experience gained during the year has only emphasized the importance of the work represented by Committee V. On the bibliographical side alone, some four or five projects have sprung

* See page 9.

up during the year, indicating the urgent need of the International Bibliography of Humanistic Literature proposed by our Association. Again, the problem of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature is now under renewed discussion, and cannot be solved without the aid of American cooperation and American money. Furthermore, there are many projects for large undertakings, like the Mathematical Dictionary, which cannot be realized without financial assistance on a comparatively large scale.